

MHADA Board Minutes  
Cape May County  
October 13, 2020

In Attendance:

Thomas Dawson	Judy Kunec	David Grusemeyer	Katie Faldetta
Pat Devaney	Majken Mechling	Barry Keefe	Donna Groome
Amy Dindak	Sueanne Agger	Mary Dozier	Tom Maletto
Frank Garcia	Greg Speed	Robert Johnson	Sharon Modzelewski

*Call to Order*

A virtual meeting was held due to COVID -19.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Judy Kunec at 5:05PM.

*Approval of Minutes*

A motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting was made by Tom Maletto and seconded by Barry Keefe. Motion carried.

*Reports and Correspondence*

**Mental Health:** Amy Dindak reported: 1) Request for Letters of Interest (Addiction Services), Promoting Integration of Primary and Behavioral Health Care. Mandatory Bidders Conference will be held on 10/26/20 and notification will be 11/10/20. NJ DMHAS awarded through SAMHSA - \$2 million per year for the period of March 30, 2020 to March 31, 2025 to implement a Promoting Integration of Primary and Behavioral Health Care (PIPBHC) initiative.

2) \$25M Coronavirus Relief Fund - Per the September 22, 2020 CRF Letter to Providers: MHAS will provide \$25M to providers through the Federal CARES Act. This fund is for COVID19 Expenses that are non-budgeted and not covered by local, state or federal funds. Reimbursement is on a first come-first serve basis or until December 20, 2020, whichever comes first. Allowable Expenses:

- Direct care staff rate increases and payments; PPE; COVID19 testing for staff and clients; HIPPA compliant telehealth communication technology; Virus mitigation items and services; Plexiglass, social distance markers/signage, cleaning supplies and services; Other – in very limited circumstance other COVID related expenses will be considered, but must be approved by DMHAS prior to commitment and expenditure of funds to determine eligibility. Complete information is available on DMHAS website as well as links provided in letter to providers dated 9/22/20.

3) During the COVID-19 public health emergency *St. Joseph's ACCESS Behavioral Health* in Paterson is providing TELEHEALTH services to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, and their families. The services provided are video-based via videophone and Zoom, for those who use ASL to communicate. Acceptance for this service is determined on an individual basis, to ensure that use of telehealth is clinically appropriate and that the individual has the appropriate video technology.

Also on a case by case basis, *ACCESS* may provide psychiatric evaluations and medication management. When the current waiver period expires, the clinicians will assist consumers, who are unable to come to the physical location, by linking them with local mental health providers. Clinical services are billable and are handled according to local/state/federal guidelines.

4) Regarding NJ Mental Health Cares Helpline: helpline continues to offer general mental health support and referrals, however during COVID-19 the helpline is offering Telephone Support *to Individuals Experiencing Anxiety and Worry Related to the Coronavirus*. Note: the helpline will not provide medical or financial advice or referrals. Individuals can call NJ Mental Health Cares at **1-866-202-HELP (4357)**

for free, confidential support from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week to speak with live trained specialists.

5) Links:

CDC: : <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html>

NJ DOH: [nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml](http://nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml)

NJ DHS: : [nj.gov/humanservices/coronavirus.html](http://nj.gov/humanservices/coronavirus.html)

6) September distribution numbers of the free of Narcan through pharmacies event will be sent as soon as they are available.

**Addiction Services:** No Report

**GCADA:** No Report

### *Old Business*

**Membership:** Pat reminded the Board that there is always an interest in new members, so please try to recruit new members.

**Heroin Issue Update: Hope One, OORP, Recovery Center:** Sueanne reported the following: OORP has served 176 people; 92 were overdoses, 77 were non overdoses, 7 were non reporting. Contacts with non opiate people are 241. The Prosecutor's Diversion program has 9 graduates and 3 terminations. The Recovery Center saw 35 new people in September. To date the number is 287 and 952 duplicated counts of people. There have been 295 total meetings, 234 of them have been recovery. Others include Smart recovery, Women's Groups. A new program is seeking to link employers with people in recovery. This program is in development and will be reported on later. The Center has made arrangements with Miracles Fitness to have some availability for RC consumers. Also the Center is starting classes such as Mommy and Me, cooking, candle and soap making, Tai Chi, and money management, among others. The Center has also distributed 41 NARCAN kits. Joe Landis was unable to make the meeting so the Hope One report will be delayed until November.

**Jail MAT Program:** Statistics are as follow, 157 enrolled, 107 warm hand-offs to community OTPs, 95 referrals to CARE.

**Recovery High School:** Katie Faldetta reported the program is going well. Four youth are enrolled in the program. Two students live in Cape May County and two live in Atlantic County.

**Overdose Fatality Review Teams:** Pat reported that there was a webinar regarding the TEAM operation, membership, protocols etc. that day. The TEAM will be meeting shortly and more members are needed. Greg and Katie also agreed it was a worthwhile presentation.

**Knock Out Opiate Abuse Day:** The State of New Jersey has designated 10/6 as Knock Out Opiate Abuse Day to help raise awareness of the potential for dependency on prescribed pain medicine and its link to heroin abuse rates in our state. Knock Out Opiate Abuse Day relied on virtual sharing this year. Awareness information was distributed electronically (i.e. emails, social media, media, etc.). A number of agencies and entities participated in getting the word out to the community.

### *New Business*

#### **Awards**

Members discussed potential candidates. A decision will be made at the November meeting.

#### **CASS Minutes**

Minutes were distributed for review. A motion was made by David Grusemeyer and seconded by Tom Maletto to accept the minutes and the FY 2022 allocation. Motion carried.

**Current Community Opiate Programs: Pat distributed a summary of the 21 programs that are currently operating in the area of opiate abuse. There has been a remarkable influx of programming over the past 5 years**

*Public Response*

Pastor Dawson reported 1) Coalition for a Safe Community is offering grants to schools to increase access to the internet. 2) Social Justice Committee is developing plans to bring the community and law enforcement together (i.e. expungement event, job assistance, fairs, etc.). 3) Working with the Southern Baptist Convention to bring 1,000 coats to the area by December.

Robert Johnson reported that Acenda provides the school district with a Student Assistance Counselor and Mental Health Counselor (12 hours for each service per week) for Middle/High Schools. District recently applied for a grant for additional counseling funds which could also be used by the Elementary Schools.

Greg Speed reported 1) Two Joint Commission Surveyors will be at Acenda next week. 2) Daytop merged with Acenda on 9/28. Daytop provides substance use disorder outpatient services, a special education school in North Jersey, and two half-way houses. The half-way houses are in Pittsgrove and Skillman (one for men and one for women).

Katie Faldetta shared a flyer for two upcoming 'Reels and Wheels' movie events at the Ferry: Ghostbusters on 10/30 and Goonies on 11/16.

*Adjournment:*

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm by Chairperson Judy Kunec.